

CLAIMS:

1. A user interface method that displays a hierarchy of an attribute in a tree format for the purpose of applying values to objects represented by the members of the attributes in the hierarchy.
2. The method of claim 1 including the step of applying more than one type of value to objects represented by the members of the hierarchy.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein objects represented by more than one attribute hierarchy are incorporated into one virtual hierarchy by inserting other attribute hierarchies into the primary hierarchy to create one virtual hierarchy.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein values applied to objects represented by a higher hierarchy member in a tree are applied further on down the tree only to objects represented by members that are neither rebels, i.e. the user has not applied values to directly to members, nor direct descendants of rebels.
5. The method of claim 1 including the feature of canceling user's application of values to a member in the tree.
6. The method of claim 1 including providing a summary view of the tree hiding all other members except the highest hierarchical member identified as the dominant ancestor, rebel members to whom the user applied values directly and direct ancestors of the rebel members.
7. The method of claim 3 wherein inserted attributes carry only those members that belong to the hierarchical position that the attribute is inserted.